Community Police and Development in Toru Ebeni Community of Sagbama Local Government Area of Bayelsa State, Nigeria.

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Abstract

The main thrust of this study was to examine the impact of community policing on Toru Ebeni community development within the period of 2007-2020. The study examined the security challenges that attracted the formation of community police in Toru Ebeni community; identified the community police groups and their activities; and examined the strategies to improve the community police activities in Toru Egbeni community. The study used Strain Anomie theory to explain the causes of present security challenges in Toru Ebeni Community. The study useddescriptive survey research design. It made use of both primary and secondary data. The primary data were presented in tabular frequency and analysed in percentage and chi-square. The findings indicated that the security challenges that attracted the formation of community police in Toru Ebeni community include raping of women, youth violent activities, the activities of cult and gang groups, etc. The various activities of community police groups for community development in Toru Ebeni community include the provision of security, passing of security surveillance reports to relevant state authorities, sensitising members of the community on security tips, and maintenance of law and order. The numerous challenges faced by the community police in Toru Ebeni community were found to include environmental issues, poor security gadgets, poor manpower training, poor condition of service, etc. Based on these findings, the study recommended among others for proper training and retraining of community police personnel; and that the community police should be adequately catered for. The study concluded that community police significantly impacts on community development in Toru Ebeni Town of Sagbama Local Government Area of Bayelsa State.

Keywords: Community, Policing, Community, Development, Community Development.

Introduction

Community is a geographic region where individuals with a shared identity, such as race, language, ethnicity, or religion, live together and in common, and these people can only live in peace if they are supplied with safety. Such security needs as community policing, which protects the lives and property of the community's residents (Ngwu & Ahuruonye, 2017). Community policing is an innovative strategy that aims to reduce the crime rate in a community by fostering collaboration and trust between residents and the police. Community policing is consequently a service-oriented approach to law enforcement that concentrates on maintaining order, preventing crime, and reducing fear in the community, as opposed to the conventional emphasis on prosecuting significant street crimes (Albanese, 2001). It is a complete set of security concepts for the people. The community police have important tasks ranging from law enforcement, arrest, and investigation of suspects to peace building and the preservation of social order (Arisukwu, et al., 2020). Community policing encompasses a vast array of programmes, including local newsletters, neighbourhood substations, foot patrol, and neighbourhood watch (Welsburd & Lum, 2013). The primary objective of community policing is to strengthen the bonds between the state police and the community. It is an excellent answer to the demand for security improvement in rural areas such as the Toru Egbeni community. The construction of community security units, i.e., non-state security institutions, is essential for community security, which is vital to community development. The state police cannot successfully address criminal activity in the communities, except with the collaboration of the community security outfits, especially the Toru Egbeni villages, on their own.

The inherent neglect of rural regions has made them a sanctuary for all types of crime and criminality. Crime in rural regions hinders social cohesiveness and badly impacts sustainable development (Grote &Neubacher, 2016). Currently, hoodlums exploit rural villages as their operating base from which to conduct illicit operations. The rural regions have far less police presence than the metropolitan ones (Lindstreom, 2015). Hence, the emergence of community police to combat the prevailing security challenges such as kidnapping, oil bunkering, cult activities, rape, street robbery, etc., in some communities, including Toru Egbeni. Of recent, Toru-Ebeni town started witnessing issues of security challenges such as the activities of cult groups and gangs, farm land dispute, youth violent activities, etc. And it appears such security challenges are driven by issues of drug abuse, poverty, youth unemployment, environmental pollution, etc. Observably, cultism activities and other forms of violent activities have become a common trend across the villages in Toru-Ebeni. Also worried by the rising level of criminal activities and other forms of insecurity in parts of the state, the Bayelsa State Government charged traditional rulers to set up security and surveillance groups in their domains (Oyadongha, 2021).The

above security challenges necessitates the need for the formation of the various community police (Ebenikrukru, Igbolokumo, and Angalapele) as community vigilantes inToru-Ebeni Town for its policing.

However, it appears the formation of various community police groups under the umbrella of community vigilantes have proved limited advances for community development in Toru Ebeni Town. This could be traced to several factors within and outside the community, and therefore affecting the operations of the community police for community development. Upon the above, this study tends to examine community policing and community development in Toru Ebeni Town of Sagbama Local Government Area of Bayelsa State, Nigeria within the period of 2007 - 2021.

Research Questions

This following research questions guided the study.

i. What are the security challenges that attracted the formation of community police in Toru Ebeni community?
ii. What are the various community police groups and theirs security activities for community development in Toru Ebeni community?
iii. What are the challenges faced by the community police in Toru Ebeni community?
iv. What are the strategies to improve the community police activities for Toru Ebeni Community development?

Objectives of the Study

The main thrust of this study is to examine the impact of community policing on Toru Ebeni community development. Other objectives of the studyare to:

i. Examine the security challenges that attracted community police in Toru Ebeni community.
ii. Identify the various community police groups and their activities for community development in Toru Ebeni community.
iii. Examine the challenges faced by the community police in Toru Ebeni community.
iv. Ascertain the strategies to improve the activities of community police for Toru Ebeni Community development.

Research Hypotheses

H_{01}: There is no significant security challenge that attracted community police in Toru Ebeni community.

H_{02}: There is no significant community police group and their activities for Toru Ebeni community development.

H_{03}: There is no significantchallenge facing the community police group in Toru Ebeni community.

H_{04}: There is no significant strategy adopted to improve the activities of community police for Toru Ebeni Community development.

Literature Review

The Concept of Police and Community Policing

The government agency responsible for preserving public order and combating crime is the police. In general, it is the role of law enforcement personnel to discover illegal conduct, catch the perpetrators, and provide evidence that will persuade judges and juries beyond a reasonable doubt that the perpetrators were guilty. The police play a crucial role in guaranteeing the preservation of peace and order in a democratic society (Arisukwu & Okunola, 2013). In addition to enforcing the law, the police conduct a variety of additional duties, including the arrest and investigation of suspected offenders, the promotion of peace and the preservation of order in a community (Arisukwu, et al., 2020). However, policing is defined as the means and activities carried out by a variety of formal and informal organisations and groups in society to control social interactions and behaviour in order to ensure the safety of community members, while also ensuring conformity to the norms and values of the society in question (Nwogwugwu & Odedina, 2018). The term "policing" refers to a sociopolitical and quasi-legal agency charged with the enforcement of criminal laws and the upkeep of law and order in a certain geographical area.

Due to a change in emphasis from conventional policing, which focuses on preventing crime and apprehending criminals, to community police cooperation in tackling the issue of crime in the community, community policing has gained substantial appeal in recent years. Community policing was originally used in the United States and Europe in the early 1980s (Ugwuoke, 2015). It is evident that the state police and community members must work together for the sake of community development. The engagement of community members has a positive influence on crime prevention and control, (Takagi et al., 2016). Community policing is the process of engaging residents and other stakeholders to establish a safe and secure environment for everybody (Mustapha et al., 2016). It is a police policy in which the general populace, including the Toru Egbeni community, is encouraged to engage actively in the management of their own safety and development. Therefore, community policing refers to a collaborative effort between members of society and state law enforcement agencies to guarantee public safety and community development. This symbiotic connection allows the police to get vital information from the public in order to better serve the whole community (Akinyemi, 2021). It is feasible for community policing to achieve its primary objective of reducing crime while

simultaneously contributing to the community's growth via effective responses to crimes (Madaki & Kurfi, 2013). Although the bulk of efforts to reduce crime, and social disorder will concentrate on apprehending and arresting offenders, this should not be confused with the ultimate goal of promoting public safety and a sense of security among the general community. Therefore, community policing is the practice of developing the interaction between police officers and people of the community in order to promote the growth of the community and the safety of individuals.

Community Development

According to Wilkins (1976, p. 41), community development is "the actual population that lives in a certain location and is bound together by a shared set of norms and laws that govern their interactions with one another" They get together to form a group of people who either meet in person on a regular basis or just meet sometimes. Community development is a movement seeking to promote better living for the whole community or town via the active participation and initiative of the entire community (Umebau, 2008, p. 63). The United Nations Economic and Social Council defines community development as a process in which the efforts of individuals and organisations join forces with those of government authorities to improve the economic, social, and cultural conditions of communities so that they can fully participate in and contribute to national progress.

Communities develop when the efforts of the people and government authorities are combined to improve the social, economic, and social cultural conditions of a community in order to integrate the communities into national life and to allow both communities to contribute fully to national advancement (United Nations, 2014. Members of the community get together in this environment to take collective action and provide solutions to the problems that they are facing. Therefore, community development seeks to provide individuals and groups of people with the information and skills they need to effect good change in their own communities and across the world. One of the most important aspects of community development is the transformation of links between ordinary people and those in positions of power, allowing everyone to participate in the decision-making processes that have an impact on their lives and the lives of others. It is clear from these definitions that community development refers to an increase in social services and infrastructure, such as roads, electricity, pipe-borne water, security, and industries, to enhance the quality of life of the people who live or reside in the community. Indeed, community development can enhance the quality of life in both rural and urban areas by reducing poverty and eliminating unemployment, but the community development is dependent on the nature of security in the community.

Theoretical Framework

The Strain Anomie theory was used in this study. Robert Merton, an American sociologist, developed this idea in the late 1930s. It emphasis that crime is not only a consequence of deprivation, but rather the result of a disconnect between purposes (goals) and the means to achieve those aims. This indicates that the social and cultural structures exert pressure for socially deviant conduct on individuals placed at different points within the system (Haralambos & Heald, 2001). People who aspire to the cultural standard of economic success, but are denied the knowledge, money, or other resources necessary to attain those goals may feel stress. Consequently, there are three potential responses to this pathogen. First, the individual may attempt what Merton refers to as innovation. Although, the person continues to embrace the cultural value of success, he or she will resort to unlawful tactics, such as theft or robbery, to earn money due to the lack of legitimate options. Merton called another potential answer retreatism. The individual abandons the pursuit of economic success and participates in detrimental activity, such as substance misuse. Merton also recognised the reaction of rebellion, in which the individual abandons the culturally prescribed objective of economic success and participates in revolutionary activities or strives to transform the system.

As a result of the Toru Ebeni community's high unemployment rate and terrible degree of poverty, many individuals had no choice, but to turn to Merton's concept of creativity and become criminals. Similar to Merton's definition of rebellion, the actions of militant organisations in the community and other associated groups might be seen as revolt. In relation to the above, Metiboba (2010) stated. that school of thinking, unless something is done about the poverty, illiteracy, and illnesses that stare normal people in most families in developing nations in the face, there will be no effective crime control measures in this area. Property crimes such as theft, arson, and burglary are on the rise in Toru Ebeni Community and have become one of the most significant obstacles to its growth. In light of the above, structural strain theory elucidates the reasons of Toru Ebeni Community's current security issues.

Methodology

A descriptive survey research design was used in this study. The participants in this study are adult residents of Toru Ebeni community. The community is made up of ten (10) villages which include; Akede, Ayama-Ebeni, Osiama, Odoni, Aleibri, Isoni, Igbologbene, Awegbene, Kwunu, and Ogbsuwari. The population of Toru Ebeni community is estimated to be nine thousand eight hundred and forty seven (9,847) people of both sexes (Sagbama LGC, 2020). This is the general population out of which the sample size was randomly selected. The sample size for the study is made up of fifty(50) participants randomly selected from each of the ten villages of the community and a total of five

hundred(500) participants were selected using simple random sampling technique. This study used primary and secondary data. The primary data were analysed with simple percentage. To test the hypothesis, the chi-square was used as the statistical tool, content analysis for the secondary data.

Data Presentation and Analysis

Research Question 1: What are the security challenges that attracted the formation of community police in Toru Ebeni community?

To answer the above research question 1 above, data is drawn from table 1 below.

Table 1: Respondents' responses on security challenges that attracted the formation of community police in Toru Ebeni community.

S/NO	Security challenges that attracted the formation of community police in Toru Ebeni community.	SA (%)	A (%)	D (%)	SD (%)
1	Oil bunkery activities in Toru Ebeni community	298(59.6)	139(27.8)	37(7.4)	37(7.4)
2	Land dispute in Toru Ebeni community	247(49.4)	152(30.4)	53(10.6)	48(9.6)
3	Youth violent activities in Toru Ebeni community	246(49.2)	163(32.6)	44(8.8)	47(9.4)
4	Cult and gang groups' activities in Toru Ebeni community	248(49.6)	188(37.6)	29(5.8)	35(7)
5	Raping of women, street robbery, and burglary in Toru Ebeni community	299(59.8)	170(34)	18(3.6)	13(2.6)

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Test of Hypothesis 1

H_{01}: There is no significant security challenge that attracted community police in Toru Ebeni community.

The respondents' responses to research questionnaire items 1–5 in table 1 above provides the data for the test of hypothesis 1, and the statistical tool used was the chi-square, using a contingency table previously calculated through the use of simple percentage. The formula for Chi-Square is given as:

$$X^2 = \frac{\Sigma(0-E)^2}{E}$$

Where X^2 = Chi-Square
$\sum$ = Summation
E = Expected frequency

Expected frequency (E) = $\frac{500}{4} = 125$

Table 2: Calculation on Chi-Square test for Hypothesis 1

Row * Column Cross tabulation							
			Column				
			1.00	2.00	3.00	4.00	Total
Row	1.00	Frequency	298	139	37	26	500
		Calculated Chi-square	239.43	1.57	61.95	78.41	381.4
	2.00	Frequency	247	152	53	48	500
		Calculated Chi-square	119.07	5.83	44.47	47.43	216.8
	3.00	Frequency	246	163	44	47	500
		Calculated Chi-square	117.13	11.55	52.49	48.67	229.8
	4.00	Frequency	248	188	29	35	500
		Calculated Chi-square	121.03	31.75	73.73	64.8	291.3
	5.00	Frequency	299	170	18	13	500
		Calculated Chi-square	242.21	16.2	91.59	100.35	450.35
Total		Frequency	1,338	812	181	169	2,500
		Calculated Chi-square	838.87	66.9	324.23	339.66	1,569.7

$X^2 = \frac{\Sigma(0-E)^2}{E} = \frac{1,569.7}{125} = 12.58$

The presentation above showed Chi-square (X^2) statistics which is used in testing the hypothesis 1, using items 1-5 on table 1 above. The Chi-square (X^2) computed value is 12.58. If the calculated Chi-square (X^2) value is greater than the critical value, that is, the degree of freedom at 3. From the above computation, the calculated frequency value (X^2) (12.58) is greater than the critical value (7.815). Thus, the null hypothesis is rejected. Hence, the

study findings proves that there are security challenges that attracted the formation of community police in Toru Ebeni community as discussed below.

Security Challenges that attracted Community Police in Toru Ebeni Community

Oil bunkery activities in Toru Ebeni community. Questionnaire item 1 in table 1 above has oil bunkery activities in Toru Ebeni community as one of the factors that attracted the formation of community police with 87.4% as agreed and strongly agreed, while 12.6% as disagreed and strongly disagreed.

Land dispute in Toru Ebeni community. Questionnaire item 2 in table 1 above proves that a total of 79.8% of the respondents' responses indicates agreed and disagreed, while 20.2% proved disagreed and strongly disagreed on land dispute as a means of security challenge in Toru Ebeni community. The above findings agree with Butler and Gates (2010), who stated that farming disputes are among the first instances of organized violence in human history.

Youth violent activities in Toru Ebeni community. Respondents' responses to questionnaire item 3 on table 1 above proves youth violent activities as one of the security challenges that led to the formation of community police in Toru Egbani, as 81.6% agreed and strongly agreed, while 18.2% disagreed and strongly disagreed.

Cult and gang groups' activities in Toru Ebeni community. The table 1 above in item 4 proves that cult and gang groups' activities in Toru Ebeni community has 87.2% as agreed and strongly agreed , and 10.8% as disagreed and strongly disagreed. This proves that cult and gang groups' activities in Toru Ebeni community was a security challenge in the community.

Raping of women, street robbery, and burglary in Toru Ebeni community. Item 5 in table 1 above proves that constant raping of women in Toru Ebeni community is a security challenge, with 93.8%; and 6.2% of the total respondents' responses as agreed and strongly agreed; and disagreed and strongly agreed respectively.

Research question two (2): **What are the various community police groups and their security activities for community development in Toru Ebeni community?**

To answer the research question 2 above, data is drawn from table 3 below.

Table3: Respondents' responses on various community police groups and their activities for community development in Toru Ebeni community.

S/NO	Community police groups and their activities for community development in Toru Ebeni community.	SA (%)	A (%)	D (%)	SD (%)
1	The community police groups include Ebenikrukru, Igbolokumo, and Angalapele	281(56)	166(33.4)	27(5.4)	26(5.2)
2	The vigilante groups provide security service in Toru Ebeni community	278(55.6)	164(32.8)	30(6)	28(5.6)
3	The vigilante groups collaborate with other state securities for Toru Egbeni community security	230(46)	180(36)	48(9.6)	42(8.4)
4	The vigilante groups sensitise members of the community on security tips	280(56)	182(36.4)	18(3.6)	20(4)
5	The vigilante groups provide community security for peace and socio economic development of Toru Ebeni community	300(60)	170(34)	18(3.6)	12(2.4)

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Test of Hypothesis II

H_{02}: There is no significant community police group and their activities for Toru Ebeni community development.

This hypothesis was tested based on data from items 1-5 of the questionnaire distribution in table 3 above. The statistical tool used was the chi-square, using a contingency table drawn from simple percentage.

Table 4: Calculation on Chi-Square test for Hypothesis 2

Row * Column Crosstabulation							
			Column				
			1.00	2.00	3.00	4.00	Total
Row	1.00	Frequency	281	166	27	26	500
		Calculated Chi-square	194.69	13.35	76.83	78.41	363.3
	2.00	Frequency	278	164	30	28	500

		Calculated Chi-square	187.27	12.17	72.2	75.27	346.91
	3.00	Frequency	230	180	48	42	500
		Calculated Chi-square	88.2	24.2	47.43	55.11	214.94
	4.00	Frequency	280	182	18	20	500
		Calculated Chi-square	192.2	25.99	91.59	88.2	397.98
	5.00	Frequency	300	170	18	12	500
		Calculated Chi-square	242.21	16.2	91.59	100.35	450.35
Total		Frequency	1,369	862	141	128	2,500
		Calculated Chi-square	904.57	91.91	379.64	397.34	1,773.5

$X^2 = \frac{\Sigma(0-E)^2}{E} = \frac{1,773.5}{125} = 14.19$

The presentation above shows Chi-square (X^2) statistics which is used in testing the hypothesis 2. It is embodied with item question 1-5 on table 3. The Chi-square (X^2) computed value is 14.19. If the calculated Chi-square (X^2) value is greater than the critical value, that is, the degree of freedom at 3. From the above computation, the calculated frequency value (X^2) (14.19) is greater than the critical value (7.815). Thus, the null hypothesis is rejected. Hence, the study proves that there are various community police groups such as Ebenikrukru, Igbolokumo, and Angalapele who carry out their activities for community development in Toru Ebeni community as discussed below.

Community police groups and their security activities for community development in Toru Ebeni community?

Ebenikrukru, Igbolokumo, and Angalapele. The respondents'responses identified the above vigilante groups as community police in Toru Egbani community, with 89.4%, representing agreed and strongly agreed; and 10.6% representing disagreed and strongly disagreed. Meaning that Ebenikrukru, Igbolokumo, and Angalapele are various community police (vigilante groups) for Toru Egbanicommunity security and development.

Provide security services in Toru Ebeni community. Item 2 on table 3 proves that the vigilante groups provide security service in Toru Ebeni community, with 88.4% of the respondents affirming to the fact; 11.6% disagreed. Since the greater % has the affirmation.

Collaborate with other state security agencies for Toru Egbeni community security. Table 3, item 3 has 82% of the respondents as agreed and strongly agreed, while 18% disagreed and strongly disagreed. This proves that the vigilante groups in Toru Ebeni community are working closely with the state security agencies for effective security of the community.

Sensitise members of the community on security tips. Item 4 on table 3 proves that the vigilante groups sensitise members of the community on security tips, with 92% and 7.6% of the respondents proving agreed and disagreed respectively.

Community security for peace and socio economic development of Toru Ebeni community. The study proves that the vigilante groups provide community security for peace and socio economic development of Toru Ebeni community, as affirmed by 94% of the respondents, and 6% disagreed.

Upon the above, it is proved that there are various community police groups such as Ebenikrukru, Igbolokumo, and Angalapele and such security groups carry out significant activities for community development in Toru Ebeni community.

Research question 3. What are the challenges faced by the community police in Toru Ebeni community?

To answer research question 3 above, data is drawn from table 5 below.

Table5: Respondents' responses ont challenges faced by the community police in Toru Ebeni community?

S/NO	Challenges faced by the community police in Toru Ebeni community	SA (%)	A (%)	D (%)	SD (%)
1	Poor technology and communication network in Toru Ebeni community	297(59.4)	190(38)	7(1.4)	6(1.2)
2	Inadequate collaboration between some community members and the vigilante groups	305(61)	183(36.6)	7(1.4)	5(1)
3	Inadequate manpower, and poor personnel training	298(59.6)	177(35.4)	17(3.4)	8(1.6)
4	Poor funding of the vigilante groups' activities in Toru Ebeni community	221(44.2)	140(28)	90(18)	49(9.8)
5	The forest and swampy environment affecting mobility of the vigilante groups in Toru Ebeni community	206(41.2)	139(27.8)	40(8)	115(23)

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Test of Hypothesis III

H_{03}: There is no significant challenge facing the community police group in Toru Ebeni community.

This hypothesis was tested with respect to items 1-5 of the questionnaire distribution on table 5. The statistical tool used was the chi-square, using a contingency table drawn from simple percentage.

Table 6: Calculation on Chi-Square test for Hypothesis One

Row * Column Crosstabulation							
			Column				
			1.00	2.00	3.00	4.00	Total
Row	1.00	Frequency	297	190	7	6	500
		Calculated Chi-square	236.67	33.8	111.39	113.29	495.2
	2.00	Frequency	305	183	7	5	500
		Calculated Chi-square	259.2	26.91	111.39	115.2	512.7
	3.00	Frequency	298	177	17	8	500
		Calculated Chi-square	239.43	21.63	93.31	109.51	463.9
	4.00	Frequency	301	185	10	4	500
		Calculated Chi-square	247.81	28.8	105.8	117.13	499.5
	5.00	Frequency	314	169	10	7	500
		Calculated Chi-square	285.77	15.49	105.8	111.39	518.5
Total		Frequency	1,515	904	51	30	2,500
		Calculated Chi-square	1,268.9	126.63	527.69	566.52	2,489.8

$$X^2 = \frac{\Sigma(0-E)^2}{E} = \frac{2,489.8}{125} = 19.92$$

The presentation above shows Chi-square (X^2) statistics which is used in testing the hypothesis one. It is embodied with item question 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20. The Chi-square (X^2) computed value is 19.92. If the calculated Chi-square (X^2) value is greater than the critical value, that is, the degree of freedom at 3. From the above computation, the calculated frequency value (X^2) (19.92) is greater than the critical value (7.815). Thus, the

null hypothesis is rejected. Hence, there are challenges faced by the community police in Toru Ebeni community as discussed below.

The challenges faced by the Community Police in Toru Ebeni community

Poor technology and communication network in Toru Ebeni community. The data from item 1 on table 5 proves that poor technology and communication network in Toru Ebeni community hinders the activities of the various community police in Toru Ebeni community. Item 1 on table 5 shows that 97.4% of the respondents agreed and strongly agreed, while 2.6% disagreed and strongly disagreed, meaning that the above subject matter is a challenge to the operations of the community police.

Inadequate collaboration between some community members and the vigilante groups. Respondents' responses from item 4 on table 5 proves that 97.6% and 6.1% of the respondents' responses agreed and disagreed respectively, meaning that the vigilante groups are having the expected cooperation from some Toru Ebeni community members on issues of security, thereby affecting their security services.

Inadequate manpower, and poor personnel training. It is proved in item 3 on table 5 that 95% of the respondents agreed and strongly agreed, while 5% disagreed and strongly disagree on the subject matter. This means that there are issues of inadequate security personnel, and many of the available personnel are not properly trained on security issues. This affects the activities of the vigilante groups in Toru Ebeni community.

Poor funding of the vigilante groups' activities in Toru Ebeni community. Table 5 shows in item 4 that 72.2% of the respondents agreed and strongly agreed, and 27.8% disagreed and strongly disagreed on the subject matter. This implies that the community police groups are facing financial challenges such as poor remuneration, funds for mobility, compensation when necessary, etc.

Environmental challenges. Table 5, item 5 indicates that the community police is facing challenges due to the forest and swampy nature of the community, thereby affecting their mobility to locate some of the criminal hideout in the community and its environ. This is proved as 69% of the respondents agreed and strongly agreed, while 31% disagreed and strongly disagreed.

Upon the above findings, it is proved that there are significant challenges facing the community police in Toru Ebeni community security and development.

Research question 4. **What are the strategies to improve the community police activities for Toru Ebeni Community development?**
To answer research question 3, data are derived from table 4 below.

Table7: Respondents' responses on the strategies to improve the community police activities for Toru EbeniCommunity development.

S/NO	**Items**(Strategies)	SA (%)	A (%)	D (%)	SD (%)
1	Increase in funding of the community police activities	210(42)	150(30)	66(13.2)	74(14.8)
2	Effective relations between the community police personnel and community members	220(44)	114(22.8)	60(12)	106(21.2)
3	Regular training and retraining of community police personnel	241(48.2)	110(22)	78(15.6)	71(14.2)
4	Provision of modern security gadgets and other facilities	210(42)	120(24)	82(16.4)	88(17.6)
5	Two way communication on security issues between the community police and community members.	229(45.8)	109(21.8)	84(16.8)	78(15.6)

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Test of Hypothesesiv: H_{04}: There is no significant strategy adopted to improve the activities of community police for Toru Ebeni Community development.

This hypothesis was tested with respect to items 1-5 of the questionnaire distribution. The statistical tool used was the chi-square, using a contingency table drawn from simple percentage.

Table 8: Calculation on Chi-Square test for Hypothesis One

Row * Column Crosstabulation							
			Column				
			1.00	2.00	3.00	4.00	Total
Row	1.00	Frequency	273	192	24	11	500
		Calculated Chi-square	175.23	35.91	81.61	103.97	396.72
	2.00	Frequency	321	164	9	6	500
		Calculated Chi-square	307.33	12.17	107.65	113.29	540.44
	3.00	Frequency	302	194	4	0	500
		Calculated Chi-square	250.63	38.1	117.13	0	405.9
	4.00	Frequency	296	178	18	8	500
		Calculated Chi-square	233.93	22.47	91.59	109.51	457.5
	5.00	Frequency	306	190	3	1	500
		Calculated Chi-square	262.1	33.8	119.1	123.01	538.01
Total		Frequency	1,498	918	58	26	2,500
		Calculated Chi-square	1,229.22	147.45	517.1	449.8	2,338.6

$X^2 = \frac{\Sigma(0-E)^2}{E} = \frac{2,338.6}{125} = 18.7$

The presentation above shows Chi-square (X^2) statistics which is used in testing the hypothesis one. It is embodied with item question 1-5. The Chi-square (X^2) computed value is 18.7. If the calculated Chi-square (X^2) value is greater than the critical value, that is, the degree of freedom at 3, the null hypothesis is rejected. From the above computation, the calculated frequency value (X^2) (18.7) is greater than the critical value (7.815). Thus, the null hypothesis is rejected. Hence, this study proves there are several strategies to improve the community police activities for Toru Ebeni Community development as discussed below.

The strategies to improve the community police activities for Toru Ebeni Community development

Increase in funding of the community police activities. The data from item 1 on table 7 above indicates that 72% of the respondents agreed and strongly agreed, while 28%

disagreed and strongly disagreed on the subject matter. This implies that when there is increase in funding of the community police activities, it will enhance their security performance for Toru Ebeni community development

Effective relations between the community police personnel and community members. Table 7 above proves in item 2 that 66.8% and 33.2% respondents agreed and disagreed respectively on the subject matter. This means that when there is an improved and effective relation between the community members and the community police personnel, such relations will enhance their security performance in the community.

Regular training and retraining of community police personnel. The study indicates that when the community police personnel are trained and retrained regular, it will help them to be acquainted with the changes in security architecture and activities in Toru Ebeni community. This is proved in item 3 table 7 above, stating 70.2% and 29.8% as agreed and disagreed on the subject matter.

Provision of modern security gadgets and other facilities. Item 4 in table 7 above shows that 66% of the respondents agreed and strongly agreed, while 29.8% disagreed and strongly disagreed on the subject matter. This means that the provision of modern security gadgets and facilities such as walking talking radio, lithe arm, boats, motorcycle, etc., such provisions will enhance the activities of the community police for security in Toru Ebeni community.

Two-way communication on security issues between the community police and community members. The data from item 5 on table 7 above proves that there is need for two way communication between the community police personnel and members of the community to enhance the security activities of the Toru Ebeni community. This was proved as 67.6% of the respondents agreed and strongly agreed, and 33.4% disagreed and strongly disagreed on the subject matter.

Indeed, there are several strategies to be adopted to improve the community police activities for Toru Ebeni Community development.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are given to enhance the functioning of the community police and improve Toru Ebeni community development.

- Proper training and retraining of community police through joint efforts and cooperation of the community leaders and the State Government. This will

enhance the functionality of the community police inline with state security policies.

- There should be improved welfare scheme for the community police personnel in Toru Ebeni community in such areas as payment of their allowances and providing food items for them when necessary as agreed in the community. This will boost their morale in providing security in Toru Ebeni community, passing of security surveillance reports to relevant authorities.
- Both individuals and groups in Toru Ebeni community should encourage the funding of the Toru Ebeni community police (vigilante groups) activities in such areas as provision of motorcycles, boats, and communication gadgets to enhance their performance
- There should be regular orientation on part of the community police personnel, as well on the community members on the need for collaboration and passing useful information on security matters to each other.
- Introduction of punishment on case of corruption and compromise among the community police personnel. This would discourage the community police groups from engaging in bribery and corruption in Toru Ebeni community.
- There should be a stronger relations between the community police personnel and Marine Police Authority operating along Toru Ebeni water ways to reduce sea piracy in the area

Finally, it is our conclusion that community police has significant impacts on community development in Toru Ebeni Town of Sagbama Local Government Area of Bayelsa State, and there should be strategies to improve the community police activities for effective security is applied, is will advance their activities for intensive Toru Ebeni community security and development.

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